

## Gorilla & Wildlife Walking Safari, Uganda

A wildlife adventure like no other - tracking great apes in their natural environment.



### Group departures

See overleaf for departure dates

### Holiday overview

Style	Walking Safaris
Accommodation	Hotels, Lodges, Safari camp, Guest farm
Grade	Gentle
Duration	17 days from London to London
Trekking / Walking days	Walks on: Safari walks - 8 days
Min/Max group size	4 / 12. Guaranteed to run for 4
Trip Leader	Local Leader Uganda
Land only	Joining in Entebbe, Uganda

Private Departures & Tailor Made itineraries available



tel: +44 (0)1453 844400 fax: +44 (0)1453 844422 info@mountainkingdoms.com www.mountainkingdoms.com

Mountain Kingdoms Ltd, 20 Long Street, Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire GL12 7BT UK  
Managing Director: Steven Berry. Registered in England No. 2118433. VAT No. 496 6511 08

# Departures

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## Group departures

### 2023 Dates:

Sat 28 Jan - Mon 13 Feb

Sat 29 Jul - Mon 14 Aug

### 2024 Dates:

Sat 27 Jan - Mon 12 Feb

Sat 27 Jul - Mon 12 Aug

## Group prices and optional supplements

Please contact us on +44 (0)1453 844400 or visit our website for our land only and flight inclusive prices and single supplement options.

**Deposit** - Please note that at the time of booking we require a higher deposit to cover the cost of chimpanzee and gorilla permits. If for any reason we are unable to secure the permits and we have to cancel the trip, you will of course receive a full refund. However, if you cancel the trip for any reason, this deposit is non-refundable. Please contact the office for full details or refer to our terms and conditions at <http://www.mountainkingdoms.com/essential-information>.

## No Surcharge Guarantee

The flight inclusive or land only price will be confirmed to you at the time you make your booking. There will be no surcharges after your booking has been confirmed.

## Will the trip run?

This trip is guaranteed to run for 4 people and for a maximum of 12. In the rare event that we cancel a holiday, we will refund you in full and give you at least 6 weeks warning. Many trips do fill up quickly - we advise you to book early if you want to secure a place(s) on the dates of your choice.

## Insurance

We offer a travel insurance scheme - please contact us for details.

## Private Departures

We can also offer this trip as a private holiday. A Private Departure follows exactly the same itinerary as the group departure but at dates to suit you (subject to availability) - please contact us with your preferred dates.

## Tailor Made service

We pride ourselves on the level of quality and choice we provide for our clients who want a fully tailor made holiday. A holiday will be created especially for you by one of our well-travelled experts. They will be able to advise on the accommodation best suited to your needs, the sights you should visit (and those to avoid!) and the best walks and activities matched to your ability. In short, we will work together with you to create your perfect holiday.

If you would like to explore the idea of a Tailor Made holiday with Mountain Kingdoms then please call us on +44 (0)1453 844400 or see the Tailor Made pages of our website for further inspiration.

## Your trip highlights

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- Incredible safaris in Murchison Falls, Queen Elizabeth and Lake Mburo national parks
- Track mountain gorillas in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest
- Spend time tracking and observing chimpanzees in Kibale Forest
- Stunning walking in Rwenzori Mountains National Park
- Stay in lovely accommodation set in idyllic surroundings including safari tents and a guest farm

## At a glance itinerary

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Days 1-2	Fly to Entebbe, Uganda.
Day 3	Visit Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary. Drive to Murchison Falls NP.
Day 4	Game drive in Murchison Falls NP. Afternoon boat trip on the River Nile to Murchison Falls.
Days 5-6	Drive to Kibale NP. Chimpanzee tracking in Kibale Forest. Walk in Bigodi Wetland Sanctuary.
Days 7-8	Walking in the Kibale Forest and Rwenzori Mountains NP. Drive to Queen Elizabeth NP.
Day 9	Safari drive in Queen Elizabeth NP, followed by a boat trip on the Kazinga Channel.
Days 10-11	Game drive to see tree climbing lions in the Ishasha Sector. Continue to Bwindi NP. Walk Ivy River Trail.
Day 12	Gorilla tracking in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.
Day 13	Walk to Kisoro town. Drive to Lake Bunyonyi.
Day 14	Drive to Lake Mburo National Park. Guided cycle ride.
Days 15-16	Safari walk in Lake Mburo NP. Drive to Entebbe. Transfer to airport for flight home.
Day 17	Arrive London.

## Trip summary

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From the moment you step into the dense growth of the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest, you are aware of the wild and unfamiliar sights and sounds that assault your senses. As you venture deeper into the primeval forest you suddenly hear loud thumping, screeching and branches snapping in the trees ahead... you're getting close! Peering nervously through the undergrowth you finally get your first incredible glimpse of a great silverback gorilla and its family, right there before you. A nervous, yet excited, "wow" comes from under one's breath. You are utterly transfixed by this rare and privileged sight; one that you'll treasure forever.

With its varied landscape of vast lakes, tropical rainforest, high mountains, manicured plantations and swathes of bushland, Uganda seems to encapsulate the African continent in one country. And, with its new found peace and stability, the "Pearl of Africa" is once again beginning to shine. Shining most brightly are Uganda's national parks protecting the very best of the natural beauty and diverse wildlife, making Uganda the perfect destination for a walking safari.

With so few remaining in the world, tracking mountain gorillas as well as chimpanzees in their natural habitat is a once-in-a-lifetime experience like no other. Our Gorilla & Wildlife Walking Safari has been designed to offer you an exploration of Uganda's best national parks including Murchison Falls and Queen Elizabeth, with wildlife-rich experiences where you can tick off the ultimate "Big Five" game - lions, elephants, rhinoceros, buffalo and leopard - as they roam the African plains. You also take walks in the Bwindi and Kibale rainforests and a scenic walk in Rwenzori Mountains National Park - the highest mountain range in Africa. But it is undoubtedly your two days spent tracking and observing the mountain gorillas and chimpanzees that will be the highlight of your trip.

During your time in Uganda you stay in good standard accommodation offering comfort, friendly service, and beautiful settings where you can feel at one with the natural surroundings of this captivating African land.

## Special notes

### Gorilla tracking and permits

With so few mountain gorillas in existence, gorilla tracking is a unique experience. As these are wild animals there is not a 100% guaranteed sighting, however the ranger guides have an impeccably high success rate.

Gorilla tracking is an exclusive experience in which small groups can observe up close the mountain gorillas in their natural habitat. It is for this reason that daily permits for gorilla tracking in Bwindi Impenetrable National Park are extremely limited. We advise that you book early to avoid disappointment as they can sell out early. Gorilla permits are included in the price of your holiday.

### Grading

Whilst the walking holiday is graded as gentle overall, we would advise that the gorilla and chimpanzee tracking in the forests will be the toughest days. The forests can present some challenging terrain with uphill walking taking you beyond any marked paths. You can be walking for anything from one to seven hours, this is entirely dependent on where the apes are situated in the forest. As you are in a rainforest it can be wet and muddy so a good pair of waterproof walking shoes and rain protection is strongly advised.

### Respecting the wildlife

The safaris on this holiday will be undertaken in national parks where the animals are wild. For your safety please respect the wildlife, never try to touch a wild animal and keep noise to a minimum whilst on the vehicle or on foot during your safari. It is important that you listen carefully to the instructions given by your guides. It may be necessary that you need to be escorted to/from your room at certain accommodation due to possible roaming wildlife, we therefore ask that you do not wander from your room unaccompanied.

You will be accompanied by Ranger Guides whilst walking in Kibale, Bwindi, Rwenzori Mountains and Lake Mburo National Park.

## Your guide

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In Uganda you will be led by a local English-speaking guide with guiding qualifications and valuable experience. They will share with you their passion and knowledge to ensure you have an enjoyable holiday in Uganda. These guides have extensive knowledge of the wildlife and are excellent at spotting these!

# Your trip itinerary

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## Day 1: Fly London to Entebbe

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Depart London on your overnight flight to Entebbe.

**Overnight: In flight**

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## Day 2: Arrive in Entebbe. Group transfer to hotel.

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On arrival at Entebbe International Airport in Uganda you will be greeted by your local guide and transferred to your hotel just a short drive from the airport.

**Overnight: The Boma Hotel or Best Western Premier Garden Hotel, Entebbe**

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## Day 3: Visit Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary. Drive to Murchison Falls National Park (6-7 hours).

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This morning you will begin your journey to Murchison Falls National Park taking you past the hustle and bustle of Kampala, Uganda's capital city. On route you'll make a visit to Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary for your first wildlife experience of the holiday. At the sanctuary you'll have a short walking safari to see up-close the endangered Southern white rhinos that are being re-introduced to Uganda. To date, the project has proudly provided a safe haven for 15 Southern white rhinos and continues to grow its numbers as the rhinos reproduce.

Afterwards you continue on to Murchison Falls National Park. At 1,480 square miles this is Uganda's largest national park and is abundant in wildlife and diverse landscapes. You will arrive at your accommodation for the night. Located on the banks of the River Nile you are likely to spot pods of hippos.

**Overnight: Murchison River Lodge or Kabalega Wilderness Lodge (Meals: BLD)**

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## Day 4: Game drive in Murchison Falls National Park and River Nile boat trip with walk to the top of the Murchison Falls.

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After an early breakfast you will take a game drive in the park. The drive takes you across the savannah, through the Borassus palm forest and across grassland down to Lake Albert where the Albert Nile heads north. You'll be in search of wildlife roaming the African savannah including lions, leopards, hyenas, elephants and buffalo. Be sure to also look overhead, for Murchison Falls National Park has an impressive diversity of birdlife, including the Black-chested snake eagle, Secretary bird, colourful Swallow tailed bee-eater and the prehistoric-looking Shoebill stork.



You will spend the afternoon on the Nile where crocodiles and hippos reside, taking a boat trip along the river to see the powerful Murchison Falls. The waterfall is between Lake Kyoga and Lake Albert and is where the mighty River Nile forces itself through a narrow seven meter gorge and tumbles down over 40 meters with immense power. At the waterfall you will have the option to walk to the top to get the best view of the falls from above. The walk to the top takes about 45 minutes to an hour, but is worth it for the close-up view which you can't quite get from the boat.

**Overnight: Murchison River Lodge or Kabalega Wilderness Lodge (Meals: BLD)**

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## Day 5: Drive to Kibale National Park. Lunch en route at Fort Portal.

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This morning you will leave Murchison Falls National Park for the long drive to Kibale National Park ready for your chimpanzee experience tomorrow. The drive will take about 8 hours and en route you'll drive past many scenic tea plantations and have a break in Fort Portal for lunch. You should arrive at your lodge in the afternoon where you can refresh yourself and perhaps relax on the private veranda and try spotting the wildlife in the surrounding forest.

The 296 square mile tropical rainforest at Kibale boasts the highest concentration of primates anywhere in Africa and is home to 13 different species including the rare red colobus and L'Hoest's monkeys. It is also one of the best places in the world to track chimpanzees in the wild.

**Overnight: Isunga Lodge, Kibale National Park (Meals: BLD)**

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**Day 6: Chimpanzee trekking in Kibale Forest National Park. Bigodi Swamp walk. Optional visit to local village and school.**

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Today you will visit Kibale Forest and spend time tracking and observing chimpanzees, its most famous inhabitants. Kibale has one of the highest diversities and densities of primates in all of Africa totaling 13 species including the black and white colobus, blue monkey, grey-cheeked mangabey, red tailed monkey, bush babies and pottos. As you are walking through the forest, your guide will identify any primates you see as well as other birds and wildlife that inhabit the forest. Once your guides have located a family of chimpanzees you will be able to observe their behavior as they swing through the trees, play on the ground, feed and interact with each other. It's a truly fascinating experience that is over all too quickly.



In the afternoon you have the opportunity to go on a guided walk through the swamps, of Bigodi Wetland Sanctuary which is adjacent to Kibale National Park. The wetland provides a home for many different primates and other mammals and is considered a birdwatcher's paradise. After the walk you can go on a community walk in nearby village or visit a school in where you can talk to the students and teachers and participate in the lessons. Alternatively you can return to your lodge and simply relax.

**Overnight: Isunga Lodge, Kibale National Park (Meals: BLD)**

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**Day 7: Walking in Kibale Forest with visit to the Top of the World viewpoint - 3-4 hours.**

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Today you'll enjoy a walk in the Kibale Forest National Park. You follow a pleasant trail that takes you past crater lakes, rural villages and manicured tea plantations. Tea has become one of Uganda's most important crops and the country is now the third biggest producer of tea in Africa. Uganda's climate provides plentiful sunshine and rainfall, along with rich soil conditions and a relatively high altitude; in fact everything required to grow large quantities of good quality tea. As you walk and travel through the countryside you will no doubt see much evidence of this thriving industry.

Your picturesque path takes you uphill to reach an observation point aptly called 'the top of the world'. From here your exertions are rewarded with fantastic, far-reaching views over rainforest and crater lakes, as far as the distant peaks of the Rwenzori Mountains.

**Overnight: Kluge's Guest Farm, Fort Portal (Meals: BLD)**

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**Day 8: Walking in Rwenzori Mountains National Park - 5-6 hours. Drive to Queen Elizabeth National Park.**

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Today you will be walking in Rwenzori Mountains National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site designated for both its bio-diversity and natural beauty. Located in southwestern Uganda, the Rwenzori Mountain range straddles the equator on the Uganda-Congo border and is the highest in all Africa with three peaks over 5,000m. It is home to Africa's third highest peak after Kilimanjaro and Mount Kenya and provides a haven for numerous species of birds, wildlife and flora, including several that are unique to this region.

The trail takes you to a maximum altitude of 2,300m and partly follows the River Mubuku from which you'll get lovely views of Baker and Portal and, on a clear day, the snow-capped Margherita Peak, 5,109 metres, a truly spectacular sight of the Rwenzori Range's highest summit. Along the trail you may come across lots of wildlife, in particular chameleons, vervet monkeys and a variety of birds.

After your walk in Rwenzori Mountains National Park you will drive south to Queen Elizabeth National Park.

**Overnight: Kasenyi Safari Camp, Queen Elizabeth National Park (Meals: BLD)**

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**Day 9: Full day at Queen Elizabeth National Park with game drive and boat trip.**

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Queen Elizabeth National Park is home to over 100 mammal species, making it an incredible destination for a safari. Lions, hippos, hyena, elephants and leopards are just some of the mammals you are likely to spot, alongside primates such as chimpanzees and Colobus monkeys. The park boasts one of the highest biodiversity ratings of any game park from the open savannah to rainforest, dense papyrus swamps and crater lakes to the vastness of Lake Edward.

You start the day with an early morning game drive through the park, followed by a cultural visit to one of the fishing villages around the park to get an understanding of the local way of life. In the afternoon you will take a leisurely boat trip on the Kazinga Channel. The natural channel links Lake Edward and Lake George in Queen Elizabeth National Park, and attracts plenty of birdlife, crocodiles, elephants and pods of hippopotamus - all of which you will be able to admire as you journey up the channel.

**Overnight: Kasenyi Safari Camp, Queen Elizabeth National Park (Meals: BLD)**

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**Day 10: Game drive in Ishasha. Continue to Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park.**

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After breakfast you will depart for Bwindi Impenetrable National Park. On the way you will have a game drive in the Ishasha sector of Queen Elizabeth National Park which is renowned for its resident tree climbing lions. This is one of only two places in the world you can see these lions and you will notice that the males of the pride are easily identified by their black manes. Along with the lions you may also see large herds of buffalo, antelope and hippo. From Ishasha you continue to Bwindi the home of the Mountain Gorillas. Of Uganda's forested parks, Bwindi Impenetrable National Park is of course best known for gorilla tracking, but it also provides refuge to elephants, chimpanzees, monkeys and various small antelopes, as well as 23 bird species restricted to the Albertine.

**Overnight: Silverback Lodge or Trackers Safari Lodge, Buhoma (Meals: BLD)**

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**Day 11: Walking in the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest - 5-6 hours.**

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Today you will walk through Bwindi Impenetrable Forest to Nkuringo via the Ivy River Trail. Bwindi is a primeval forest covering approximately 128 square miles. The forest is within a mountainous region so the trail will involve some steep inclines with altitudes from 1,460m to 2,160m, but during this wonderful rainforest experience you will be able to spot a large variety of wildlife. Colobus monkeys, Bush duikers, 220 species of colourful butterflies and 350 bird species are all abundant in this ancient, 25,000 year old forest. At the end of the day you will transfer to your accommodation for the night in Bwindi.

**Overnight: Lake Mutanda Resort, Bwindi (Meals: BLD)**

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**Day 12: Gorilla tracking in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.**

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It's an early start this morning as you venture into the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest in search of the mighty Mountain Gorilla. Sadly the mountain gorilla is considered critically endangered and only exist in small numbers, so this really is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Getting up close to a family of gorillas and observing their daily life is an experience like no other and one that will not be forgotten. Mountain gorillas depend on strong social bonds and usually live in groups of up to 20. Bwindi forest has many groups, only some of which have been habituated - a process that takes up to 5 years to get the groups used to human presence.

You will be assisted by an experienced ranger who will guide you through the forest and share their knowledge about the forest's flora, fauna and the habits of the gorillas. Your day is entirely dependent on the location and movements of the gorillas, usually tracking them can take anything from one and seven hours. As the gorillas will be leading the way you will not be following marked paths and some of the terrain could be challenging, but this exclusive wildlife experience will make all your exertions worthwhile.



**Overnight: Lake Mutanda Resort, Bwindi (Meals: BLD)**

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**Day 13: Walk to Kisoro - 3 hours. Drive to Lake Bunyonyi.**

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In the morning you'll walk from your lodge in Bwindi to the town of Kisoro. From here, you'll make your way to one of Uganda's most beautiful lakes - Lake Bunyonyi. The drive is approximately two to three hours, but the stunning views en route of the terraced mountains make this a pleasant journey through what is known as the "Switzerland of Uganda". On arrival you'll be able to take in the natural beauty of this area from the comfort of your hotel - the lake, the hills, and the prolific birdlife.

**Overnight: Birdnest @ Bunyonyi Resort, or Arcadia Cottages, Bunyonyi (Meals: BLD)**

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**Day 14: Drive to Lake Mburo National Park. Guided cycle ride.**

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Today you drive to Lake Mburo National Park. The park forms a mosaic-like habitat with rocks, dry slopes, open and wooded savannas, forests, and swamp. This diversity of habitats is reflected in the diversity of bird life with 313 bird species recorded in the park, including flame head Barbet, Long-tailed Zitting Cisticola (Tabora), African Bins Rail, Collared Barbet and binding Bush singer among others.

Once you have settled in to your accommodation, you will head out for a guided cycle ride in the park.

**Overnight: Rwakobo Rock Lodge, Lake Mburo National Park (Meals: BLD)**

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**Day 15: Nature walk and game drive in Lake Mburo National Park. Drive to Entebbe.**

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Before driving to Entebbe you will have a final chance to experience the superb wildlife and scenery of Uganda as you take an early morning nature walk and game drive.

After your time at Lake Mburo you will make your way to Entebbe - a journey of 5-6 hours. On route your driver will take a rest stop at an intersection in Kampala - the earth's equator! And, after some lunch and a chance to stand with each foot on different sides of the world, you will continue to your hotel in Entebbe.



**Overnight: The Boma Hotel or Best Western Premier Garden Hotel, Entebbe (Meals: B L)**

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**Day 16: Group transfer to the airport.**

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After breakfast you will transfer to the airport for your overnight flight back to London.

**Overnight: In flight (Meals: B)**

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**Day 17: Arrive UK**

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## Our grading system

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Gorilla & Wildlife Walking Safari is graded as a Gentle walking holiday, as described below.

### **Gentle**

Trips within this grade typically mix sightseeing with easy-paced half and/or full day walks. On these trips, walks will be on relatively low altitude trails, for a duration of around 4-6 hours. On all of our Gentle graded trips, some ascent and descent should be anticipated, and there may occasionally be a longer walking day. Holidays within this grade generally use hotels and comfortable lodges although a few do have some nights camping.

These holidays are suitable for people who enjoy easy-paced walks in the British countryside or exploring on foot rather than in a vehicle.

## Trip altitude

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**Important** - please be aware that this trip involves travel at altitude. Whilst all our itineraries are carefully designed to optimise acclimatisation to high altitudes, participants on this trip are likely to experience some symptoms of being at altitude. The Dossier pack we provide when you book your holiday includes comprehensive advice on safe travel at altitude. If you require further information or advice on travel at altitude prior to booking please contact the office to speak to an experienced member of our team. Alternatively we recommend [www.medex.org.uk](http://www.medex.org.uk) as a good source of information.

## What the price includes

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Mountain Kingdoms aims to offer the best value for money. We do not charge extra for meal packages or apply local charges and try to ensure that all the key elements of your holiday are included.

### What's included:

- ✓ A qualified English-speaking local guide
- ✓ Experienced ranger guide in Kibale, Rwenzori Mountains, Bwindi and Lake Mburo
- ✓ 14 nights in good standard accommodation on a twin share basis
- ✓ All tracking permits, excursions and entry fees as described in the itinerary
- ✓ 12 dinners, 13 lunches and 14 breakfasts.
- ✓ Safe drinking water
- ✓ All road transport as described in the itinerary
- ✓ Carbon offsetting with the Ecoan Tree Planting Project (for clients taking our flight inclusive option)
- ✓ Economy class return air fares from the UK (flight inclusive option)
- ✓ Single, timed, group airport transfers for international flights on arrival and departure
- ✓ A free Mountain Kingdoms Water-to-Go bottle

### Airport transfers

The cost of a transfer to/from the airport is included in the price of your holiday. This is a single group transfer which is arranged to coincide with the timings of the group flights. If you book your own flights which arrive/depart at different times to this, or we book flights at your request that have different timings, we will be happy to provide a quote for a separate transfer. Please contact us should you require any further information.

### What's not included:

- × Travel insurance
- × Visa fees
- × Tips
- × Optional sightseeing/activities
- × Locally paid bar bills and laundry
- × Evening meals in Entebbe

### Water-to-Go Reusable Bottle Campaign

We have joined the campaign to help cut down on the use of plastics and, in particular, single-use water bottles. To do this we have teamed up with the revolutionary company, Water-to-Go who have developed a multi-use drinking bottle with a reusable filter that eliminates over 99.9% of all microbiological contaminants. This makes water from virtually any source safe to drink and significantly reduces the need for travellers to buy bottles of water wherever they are in the world.

Our clients who are not given a free Mountain Kingdoms kit bag for their holiday (these are required for certain treks), will instead receive a free Mountain Kingdoms Water-to-Go bottle. These unique Water-to-Go bottles can also be purchased from us at a discounted rate.

For further information about our campaign visit <https://www.mountainkingdoms.com/water-to-go-reusable-bottle-campaign>.

## Your accommodation

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We will endeavour to secure the hotels named in this itinerary but if our first choice of accommodation is not available we will book a suitable alternative of a similar standard.



### **The Boma Hotel or Best Western Premier Garden Hotel, Entebbe**

Located close to Entebbe airport, the Boma Hotel has traditional African-style rooms combined with modern touches. Rooms have an en suite bathroom TV, and a four poster bed with mosquito net. The Boma Hotel also has a bar, restaurant, craft shop and internet access.

We also use the Best Western Premier Garden Hotel in Entebbe which is also located close to the airport. The hotel has a bar and free Wi-Fi. All rooms are equipped with air-conditioning, a minibar, a safe and tea and coffee making facilities.



### **Murchison River Lodge or Kabalega Wilderness Lodge**

At Murchison River Lodge you will be staying in thatched safari tents, each with their own en suite bathroom with solar heated water. The tents are set among the trees and bushes with wildlife right on your doorstep. Hippos are known to roam the area and you will have staff to assist you to and from your tent. Rooms are under canvas, with mosquito nets and a solid wooden door. This family run lodge has a restaurant, bar, swimming pool and craft shop. The lodge enjoys panoramic views of the River Nile and Murchison Falls National Park.

Alternatively you may stay at Kabalega Wilderness Lodge, also situated on the banks of the River Nile. The lodge comprises a raised dining area, river deck and individual safari cabins all of which are constructed from natural materials and decorated with rustic safari furnishings and handcrafted fixtures.



### **Isunga Lodge, Kibale National Park**

Isunga Lodge sits in an elevated position with magnificent views of the rainforest and the Rwenzori Mountains. The lodge has six peaceful, secluded cottages that have outside seating and are equipped with mosquito nets, hot showers and flush toilets. Lighting is provided by solar power. The lodge has a comfortable lounge area with Wi-Fi as well as a bar and restaurant.



### **Kluge's Guest Farm, Fort Portal**

Located on the foothills of Rwenzori Mountains National Park, Kluge's Guest Farm offers eco-friendly accommodation with en suite guest rooms, mosquito nets, private terraces, a swimming pool and a restaurant serving home-grown produce. It's a "piece of paradise" abundant with colourful flowers, trees and wildlife. Wi-Fi available in communal area.



### **Kasenyi Safari Camp, Queen Elizabeth National Park**

Kasenyi Safari Camp is located on the rim of lake Bunyampaka in the Kasenyi savannah of Queen Elizabeth National Park. The camp has an elevated dining structure that is meticulously thatched. The tents are on platforms with a thatched canopy roof. There are eight tents all with en suite bathrooms, spacious living areas and private decks. Many animals frequent the camp during day & at night. Lion prides, hippo, leopard, buffalo, elephant, waterbuck, kob, hyena and wart hog are frequently seen.



### **Silverback Lodge or Trackers Safari Lodge, Buhoma**

Overlooking Bwindi Impenetrable Forest, Silverback Lodge has twelve en suite rooms each with a mosquito net protected bed and veranda where you can sit and enjoy the forest views. The restaurant serves local and international dishes, whilst drinks, including cocktails, can be enjoyed from the Summit Bar. Wi-Fi is available in communal areas.

On our January 2024 departure we will be using Trackers Safari Lodge in Buhoma instead. At Trackers, individual 'chalet' rooms come with en suite bathrooms and their own private balconies, to make the most of the forest views. There is a pool, bar and a central dining lodge with an open kitchen serving locally sourced 'farm to fork' dishes.



### **Mutanda Lake Resort, Bwindi**

Perched beside the calm waters of Lake Mutanda, beneath Virunga Mountains, this resort offers scenic views combined with a high level of comfort. The spacious, comfortable cottage rooms are en suite and all have private verandas. The lodge's chalet style bar and dining room is a great place to relax in the evenings.



### **Birdnest @ Bunyonyi Resort, or Arcadia Cottages, Bunyonyi**

Birdnest @ Bunyonyi is a lakeside hotel with a swimming pool, lounge, bar and restaurant where you can enjoy local and international cuisine. Guest rooms are comfortable and spacious with an en suite bathroom. Wi-Fi is available in the lobby and restaurant. The hotel itself is nestled among lush green hills with undisturbed views across Lake Bunyonyi and is a perfect place for a spot of birdwatching. Alternatively we may use Arcadia Cottages which are in a very peaceful hillside location overlooking Lake Bunyonyi and Mount Muhavura. Within its large, landscaped grounds there are 11 self-contained cottages built in a traditional style each with a balcony and veranda. The cottages are arranged around a central lodge where you will find a bar, restaurant and Wi-Fi.



### **Rwakobo Rock Lodge, Lake Mburo National Park**

This is a family-run, eco-friendly rondavel, style lodge with guest rooms in thatched cottages. It has a scenic setting on the edge of Lake Mburo National Park with fantastic views and a gorgeous sunset to enjoy. En suite rooms have solar heated water, mosquito nets and a private veranda. An open-air bar and restaurant serves a mix of homemade western and Ugandan cuisine and overlooks a nearby rocky pool where you can spot wildlife such as warthogs, impalas and bushbucks.

## Meal arrangements

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All meals included except dinner on day 2 in Entebbe. This equates to 12 dinners, 13 lunches and 14 breakfasts.

## Flight arrangements

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### Flight inclusive from price

Our 'Flight inclusive from' price is based on the best fare available at the time of printing. As airfares change on a constant basis, this should be used only as a guide price. Rest assured that, at the time of booking, we will endeavour to get the best possible price for the flights you need. Remember, the earlier you book the greater your chances of securing the best fare.

Flight inclusive packages booked through Mountain Kingdoms are protected through our ATOL bonding scheme.

### Flight upgrades and regional Airports

Please call us on +44 (0)1453 844400 for flight options from regional UK airports, Business Class upgrades, alternative airlines and stopovers. Please also check our website for the most up to date flight inclusive 'from' prices.

## Further information

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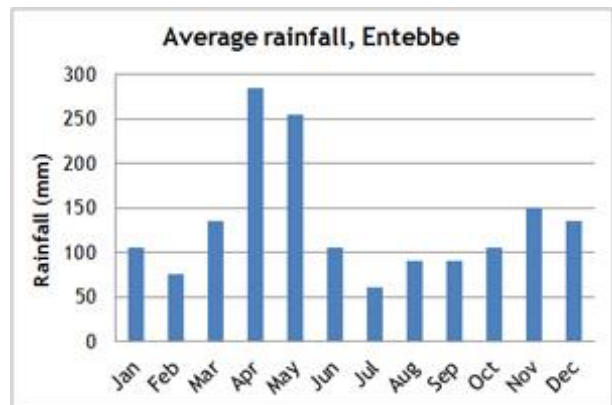
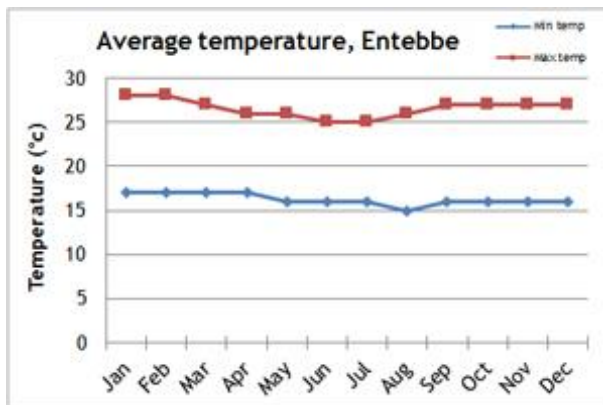
When we receive your booking, we send you a full Trip Dossier which contains details of any visas and vaccinations required, a suggested gear and clothing list and lots of useful information. If you do have queries at this initial stage do call us on 01453 844400 and we will be pleased to offer advice.

## The nature of adventure travel

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Every effort will be made to keep to this itinerary but we cannot guarantee that things may not change, either before you travel or while you are away. By its very nature, adventure travel involves an element of the unexpected, particularly in more remote areas. A variety of factors such as adverse weather conditions, changes to local schedules and difficulties with transportation can all contribute to the need to make changes to the itinerary, often at the very last minute. Our Operations Manager and your Trip Leader will make every effort to maintain the integrity of the original itinerary and minimise the impact of any changes, but an easy-going and flexible nature is a real asset! Please note that all timings and distances given are approximate.

# Climate information



# Extensions

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## Extending your holiday

If you would like additional inspiration on how or where to extend your holiday please call us on 01453 844400. Alternatively, you can download a range of extension information sheets on our website, at [www.mountainkingdoms.com](http://www.mountainkingdoms.com).



If you would like to extend your holiday you could book extra hotel nights at the start or end of your trip. We can also help you arrange a personal sightseeing tour or other interesting activities. In fact, whatever's available we can help make it happen. We're happy to suggest ideas, provide quotes and make all the arrangements.

We can also assist with flight and hotel upgrades.

## Why book this holiday with Mountain Kingdoms?

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- Our unique itinerary takes you to six of Uganda's best national parks with varied walking safaris and intimate, up-close wildlife experiences.
- Stay in hand-picked accommodation of a high standard in incredible locations, including two forest camps where you can feel at one with the surroundings.
- You will be guided by a local English-speaking leader with excellent knowledge and experience of the varied walks and sightseeing you will undertake in Uganda. They also have incredible wildlife knowledge. You will also be accompanied by Ranger Guides for several walks.
- All meals where stated are included, as well as safe drinking water during the trip.
- Your gorilla and chimpanzee permits are included in the price of the holiday.
- You only need to carry a day sack. This trip is supported by a vehicle which takes your main baggage between accommodations. All transfers and safari drives are by 4x4 safari vehicles with a pop-up roof and included in the price.
- A fixed group transfer to/from airport the airport is included at the start and end of the trip.
- Our maximum group size is 12 for this trip. This provides for a genuine small group travel experience and the best way to enjoy wildlife viewing.
- As part of our commitment to 'Tourism Declares a Climate Emergency', we will be carbon-offsetting all international flights booked through us by donating funds to the Ecoan Tree Planting Project in Peru.
- If you wish to fly with a specific airline, from a regional UK airport or on alternative dates to the main group we would be happy to arrange this for you. Please contact our Flights Manager, April, for flight options, quotes and further information.

If we've tempted you to take your next holiday with us, we advise you to check availability and you can do this via our website: [www.mountainkingdoms.com](http://www.mountainkingdoms.com) or by calling the team on +44 (0)1453 844400. Bookings can be made online, by phone or by completing a booking form and returning it to us. We can also provisionally hold places if you need time to consider your options.



## What our clients say

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*The trip overall was most enjoyable and Uganda is a destination that pleased beyond expectation.*  
- Mr D, Manchester

*The itinerary was excellent. We saw and did so much in the 2 weeks - birds, animals, varied and amazing scenery, plus the highlight was sitting about 2 metres from a gorilla. Most days was packed with activity, which I really enjoyed as I want to see/do as much as possible when I travel.*  
Mr S, Essex



*A wonderful holiday which showcased the diversity of wildlife, birds, landscape and flora that Uganda has to offer. Savannah, rainforest, mountain, lake, all in a country the size of the UK. Almost every day had a highlight, Murchison Falls, the crater lakes, 4 out of the big 5, spectacular scenery and then there were gorillas. My personal favourites were seeing a leopard close up, Murchison Falls, L Mutanda with the Virunga volcanoes as a back drop and being up close and personal with a Silverback gorilla. If anything, this holiday was several holidays in one.*  
- Lena, Cumbria



*Wow, what a trip! Seeing the chimps and gorillas in their natural environment on this walking safari really was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. With so few gorillas in the wild it was a very special experience, one I'll treasure for a long time. Uganda itself is a very beautiful country and has lots of wildlife to be seen, including the big five and countless colourful birds.*  
- Mr P, Gloucestershire

# Mountain Kingdoms - distinctly different

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## **Truly independent**

In an age where many so-called 'independent' travel companies have in fact been bought out by multi-national giants, we remain fiercely independent with all the benefits this offers our clients.

## **Value for money prices with an emphasis on quality**

We are not in the business of cutting our itineraries and services to the bone to offer eye-catching cheap prices. We use some of the best airlines, and typically 3 or 4 star hotels in cities. We include the majority of meals and private transport for road travel. We use excellent equipment and appoint well-trained staff and leaders. Last year, over 98% of our clients rated their Mountain Kingdoms holiday as 'excellent' or 'good'. We are members of AITO and bound by their quality charter.

## **Complete financial security**

You can book with us confident that your holiday has full financial protection. Flight inclusive holidays are financially protected by the Civil Aviation Authority under ATOL licence number 2973 and 'Land Only' holidays are covered by a bond secured with ABTOT.

## **No Surcharge Guarantee**

Your peace of mind is important to us so we have a No Surcharge Guarantee on all Land Only and Flight Inclusive bookings. This means that there will be no change to the price of your holiday once we have confirmed your booking, regardless of fluctuations in exchange rates or fuel prices.

## **Award winning Responsible Tourism**

We feel strongly that all our holidays should benefit local communities, protect the environment and respect local traditions, religion and heritage. You can read more about the charities we support and our Responsible Tourism commitments and initiatives on the following page or at [www.mountainkingdoms.com](http://www.mountainkingdoms.com).

## **Genuine small group travel**

Almost all of our holidays have a maximum group size of just 12, plus leader. This provides more contact with your leader, readier access to off-the-beaten-path areas, greater interaction with local communities and a reduced environmental impact.

## **Loyalty Discount**

If you have previously travelled with us we recognise your loyalty with a discount on future trips.

## **Booking your holiday - it couldn't be easier**

Once you've chosen your Mountain Kingdoms holiday you can book online, call the office or complete and post a booking form which can be found in our brochure or downloaded from our website. If you would like to hold a place on one of our trips, whilst you make up your mind, please give us a call to make a provisional booking. This is a no-obligation, no-cost booking and we will hold your place until space comes under pressure or we need your decision.

## **Comprehensive information**

When we receive your booking we send you a full trip dossier which contains details of visas and vaccinations required, a suggested gear and clothing list and lots of useful information. In fact, everything you need to know to give you peace of mind and allow you to prepare for your trip of a lifetime.



## RESPONSIBLE TOURISM STATEMENT CLIMATE EMERGENCY PLAN



For over 33 years, Mountain Kingdoms has been offering people the chance to visit amazing places on this extraordinary planet. We now offer trips to all corners of the world, but we are conscious that inevitably our holidays have a detrimental impact on the world around us, and we want to do all we can to reduce our carbon emissions. We are a signatory to Tourism Declares a Climate Emergency, along with a growing number of like-minded, reputable tour operators. For more information, please visit [www.tourismdeclares.com](http://www.tourismdeclares.com)

From 2020 onwards, we will be focusing on how we can reduce the carbon emissions that our holidays produce, and how to counterbalance this carbon by supporting carbon offset measures. Here are some of our current and future plans to minimise the impact of our business as a whole:

### **Carbon Offsetting**

#### **Already doing:**

- ✓ We have been offsetting carbon since 2007, but will be increasing our donations to the [Ecoan tree planting project](#) in Peru this year. This is with a trusted partner where the funds go directly to a project where the community plants trees on its own land.

#### **Will do:**

- ✓ We are working on making our carbon offsetting more accurate and targeted.
- ✓ In future, we will add to that a further estimate for carbon produced by hotels, local road travel, trains and internal flights to arrive at a carbon offset sum for each trip we operate.
- ✓ Carbon offsetting will be included in our holiday prices. For our Flight Inclusive holidays it will include the international flight and any emissions produced by inland travel and accommodation. Our Land Only prices will include the cost of offsetting emissions caused by inland travel and accommodation.

### **Reducing Carbon Emissions**

#### **Already doing:**

- ✓ We already offer the majority of our customers a free filtered water bottle which means they can instantly cut down on their single-use plastic consumption. This will be an ongoing project.
- ✓ We already predominantly use locally owned hotels, but will continue to ensure that, where possible, we use these rather than multinational chains.
- ✓ We have joined the Tourism Declares a Climate Emergency initiative to stand alongside like-minded travel companies, to work together to initiate best practices to make tourism as sustainable as possible.

#### **Will do:**

- ✓ We will re-evaluate our flights to make sure we are using the most fuel efficient airlines with the youngest fleets and, where possible, direct flights for each trip.
- ✓ We will stop offering unnecessary optional flights – for example our Everest sightseeing trip.
- ✓ We will eliminate unnecessary staff flights wherever possible.
- ✓ We will look at minimising internal flights.
- ✓ We will be asking all our worldwide agents and suppliers to look at their own carbon footprint and encourage them to reduce it.
- ✓ We will promote our more low impact trips to give customers an informed choice.

As part of our wider commitment to Responsible Tourism, we will continue to support a number of charities with whom we have had a long standing relationship over many years. These include: Shiva Charity in Nepal (Ginette Harrison School), Simien Mountains Mobile Medical Service and Porter Welfare, as well as setting aside a sum for emergency disaster relief should the need arise.

